



October 2015

# eNEWSLETTER

## President's Message

Mr. James P. Woolsey  
@ DAUPrez



What we do is  
incredibly complex.

It takes a lot of  
people working  
together to make  
and keep a program  
successful.



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## BETTER BUYING POWER UPDATE

### Report Card for the Acquisition System

Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics released his third annual report on the [Performance of the Defense Acquisition System](#). According to Kendall, there are a number of indicators which show movement in a positive direction. He notes that a much higher number of programs are showing savings relative to initial baselines, Nunn-McCurdy breaches are decreasing, and that looking at program cost growth in two year increments also reveals a positive trend.

Kendall also released the [Program Manager Assessments](#). "What many people tend to think of as the 'acquisition system' is really just the thin veneer of the major milestone decision process that overlays the real work of defense acquisition," he said. "I believe that these assessments provide a valuable window into that work - the day to day efforts that comprise the bulk of defense acquisition - and into the highly professional efforts of our workforce to deliver capability to our warfighters as efficiently and effectively as possible."

## RESOURCES

DAU West Region will hold an [Acquisition Training Day](#) in San Diego Oct. 20. Guest speakers and workshops will cover topics such as innovations in program management, risk management and cybersecurity. Registration is free, but seating is limited. Register by Oct. 15.

**National Cybersecurity Awareness Month**

Find out how cybersecurity fits into the acquisition system.

## LEARNING ASSETS

### Courses renamed

Two 300-level international courses have been re-designated. The agreement negotiation course, formerly PMT 304, is now [ACQ 340 Advanced International Management Workshop](#). The Advanced Technology Security/Control Workshop known as PMT 313 is now [ACQ 350](#). Look for them under their new titles in the [iCatalog](#).

### Defense Acquisition Research Journal (ARJ)

#### [October 2015 edition](#)

Articles include:

#### *"Requirements Engineering in an Agile Software Development Environment"*

The use of best business practices and lessons learned to standardize requirements development and refinement processes can be beneficial to a Business Capability Lifecycle software acquisition program.

#### *"Balancing Incentives and Risks in Performance-Based Contracts"*

This research examines issues associated with PBL contracts and how the DoD can mitigate operational/financial risks and build long-term partnerships with commercial contractors.



## MISSION ASSISTANCE

Consulting can take on many shapes and forms. An area where DAU may provide some benefit to you and your program is with tailored [Milestone Preparation](#). If you're coming up on a milestone and could use a consultant with a balance between "been there, done that" and a "policy guru," we may be just what you're looking for.

Contact us to get started:  
[MissionAssistance@DAU.mil](mailto:MissionAssistance@DAU.mil)